

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information recording and reproducing apparatus for recording program information reproduced from an information recording medium or program information supplied via a communication network into recording device, said apparatus comprising:

a first recording unit, provided in said recording device, for recording said program information reproduced from the information recording medium or said program information supplied via the communication network;

a second recording unit, provided in said recording device, for pre-recording title information corresponding to said program information; and

control means for, when said program information is recorded into said first recording unit, (a) obtaining management information for managing said program information recorded in the information recording medium or supplied via the communication network, (b) in case that the title information corresponding to said program information is obtained by searching through said second recording unit based on the management information obtained, appending the title information obtained to said program information so as to be recorded into said first recording unit, and (c) in case that the title information corresponding to said program information is not obtained by searching through said second recording unit based on the management information obtained, appending information indicating an absence of the title information to said program information so as to be recorded into said first recording unit.

2. The information recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when updated title information is supplied by way of an information recording medium or via the communication network, said control means records

said updated title information into said second recording unit, and searches through said second recording unit (after updating) for the title information corresponding to said program information appended with the information indicating the absence of the title information, and when the title information corresponding to said program information is obtained, said control means appends the title information obtained to said program information so as to be recorded into said first recording unit.

3. The information recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said control means searches through said second recording unit after updating, based on the management information for managing said program information appended with the information indicating the absence of the title information.

4. The information recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising one of the followings:

reproducing means for reproducing the information recording medium having recorded the updated title information; and

receiving means for receiving the updated title information supplied via the communication network.

5. A method of appending title information for appending title information to program information reproduced from an information recording medium or program information supplied via a communication network so as to be recorded into recording device, said method comprising:

the step of recording said program information reproduced from the information recording medium or said program information supplied via the communication network into a first recording unit provided in said recording device;

the step of, when said program information is recorded into said first recording unit, obtaining management information for managing said program information recorded in the information recording medium or supplied via the communication network, and, based on the management information obtained, searching through a second recording unit equipped in said recording device provided for pre-recording title information corresponding to said program information; and

the step of appending the title information to said program information so as to be recorded into said first recording unit when the title information corresponding to said program information is obtained in said step of searching, and appending information indicating an absence of the title information to said program information so as to be recorded into said first recording unit when the title information corresponding to said program information is not obtained in said step of searching.

6. The method of appending title information according to claim 5, further comprising:

the step of obtaining updated title information when the updated title information is supplied by way of an information recording medium or via the communication network;

the step of recording the updated title information obtained into said second recording unit, and searching through said second recording unit (after updating) for the title information corresponding to said program information appended with the information indicating the absence of the title information; and

the step of appending the title information to said program information so as to be recorded into said first recording unit when the title information corresponding to said program information is obtained by searching through said second recording

unit after updating.

7. The method of appending title information according to claim 6, wherein, in said step of searching through said second recording unit after updating, said second recording unit after updating is searched through based on the management information for managing said program information appended with the information indicating the absence of the title information.

8. A program recording medium having recorded a title information appending procedure program for allowing a computer to execute a process to append title information to program information reproduced from an information recording medium or program information supplied via a communication network so as to be recorded into recording device, the title information appending procedure comprising:

the procedural step of recording said program information reproduced from the information recording medium or said program information supplied via the communication network into a first recording unit provided in said recording device;

the procedural step of, when said program information is recorded into said first recording unit, obtaining management information for managing said program information recorded in the information recording medium or supplied via the communication network, and, based on the management information obtained, searching through a second recording unit equipped in said recording device provided for pre-recording the title information corresponding to said program information; and

the procedural step of appending the title information to said program information so as to be recorded into said first recording unit when the title information corresponding to said program information is obtained in said

procedural step of searching, and appending information indicating an absence of the title information to said program information so as to be recorded into said first recording unit when the title information corresponding to said program information is not obtained in said procedural step of searching.

9. The program recording medium having recorded a title information appending procedure program according to claim 8, further comprising:

the procedural step of obtaining updated title information when the updated title information is supplied by way of an information recording medium or via the communication network;

the procedural step of recording the updated title information obtained into said second recording unit, and searching through said second recording unit after updating for the title information corresponding to said program information appended with the information indicating the absence of the title information; and

the procedural step of appending the title information to said program information so as to be recorded into said first recording unit when the title information corresponding to said program information is obtained by searching through said second recording unit after updating.

10. The program recording medium having recorded a title information appending procedure program according to Claim 9, wherein said procedural step of searching through said second recording unit after updating includes the procedural step of searching through said second recording unit (after updating) based on the management information for managing said program information appended with the information indicating the absence of the title information.